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PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF FRAEULEIN HAGEN,
HEAD OF ENGLISH SECTION OF PERS ZS, AUSWAERTIGES AMT

Attached are notes on the preliminary interrogation of Fraeulein Ursula HAGEN of PERS ZS, German Foreign Office, carried out at the Public Security Office, MARBURG/LAHN, on 23rd June 1945, by Cdr. G. Bull, R.N.V.R.

TICOM
4 July 1945

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Ursula Hagen, born Berlin 23rd March 1901, joined Auswaertiges Amt 1st October 1922. Had a good knowledge of English and preliminary training consisted of studying of code messages already broken and cryptographic material available. At this time work was principally concentrated on a non-hatted 5-letter code [G.T.C.?] and a 4-letter hatted code which changed after about a year ['R' Code?]. Later on work was started on Spanish and Portuguese Codes.

2. In about 1939, Fraeulein Hagen took charge of the English, Spanish and Portuguese section of the Department. During the war no Cyphers were solved but work was done on a captured Interdepartmental Cypher on a depth of 5 or 6. Believed that neither OKW nor Forschungsamt were successful with Diplomatic Cyphers although they were attempted.

3. The three departments worked on British Codes and sometimes 2 copies of the same telegram representing independent solutions, would be forwarded to the Secretary of State. Although the bulk of the material was of no great importance, the traffic was considered of sufficient interest for the work to be kept up. Perhaps one telegram a week would be of considerable political interest.

4. Fraeulein Hagen had only come out of hospital two days previously and explained that as a result of her illness her memory had been considerably affected and she was unable to recall details of the important messages which she had mentioned. She did, however, instance a telegram from London to Washington in January 1945 which referred to destruction of copies of the Atlantic Charter. This was considered of great interest but was transmitted in 5-letter code.

5. The 4-letter code was read currently in 1945 as also was the Italian Code [probably 'Q'].

6. At this time 3 separate 4-letter codes were being worked on and broken simultaneously. The department reckoned that it took about three months to reconstruct one of these codes.

7. The plain language, i.e. solved, copies of code telegrams submitted by the department carried no secrecy marking but raw material was invariably marked Geheime Reichsache.